

Coins

Multicolored currency soon in circulation? More fancy than fact

By Roger Boye

MORE QUESTIONS about coins and currency are answered this week.

Q — Several days ago a radio announcer said our government has been printing paper money as the Canadians do — a different color for each denomination. When will these bills start turning up in change? — A. G., Stevens Point, Wis.

A — The report you heard was wrong. Government bureaucrats insist that multicolored currency would prove to be a boon for counterfeiters. The uniform color now used forces people to look at each bill they receive, and that action helps to weed out bogus money, the experts say.

Q — I have a complaint about The Tribune's coin advertisements. Some dealers refuse to list the prices for gold and silver coins, saying, instead, "Call us." That forces collectors to waste a lot of money phoning. Can't

something be done? — S. A., Lemont

A — Coin advertisements for the Sunday Tribune are due five days before publication. Many dealers are afraid a fast-changing gold or silver market could make their published coin prices out-of-date by the time the paper comes out. They reason it is better to make people call than to list inaccurate prices.

Q — Is it still worth my while to check the money I get in change for silver coins, or are they all gone? — T. P., Orland Park

A — Almost all silver coins were taken out of circulation nearly 10 years ago, but a few strays might still be left. Your best bet would be in finding a silver dime or a 40 per cent silver half-dollar made between 1965 and 1970. As you know, the government no longer uses silver in making coins.